



# NORTH CAROLINA

## State Board of Elections

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**KIM WESTBROOK STRACH**  
*Executive Director*

January 30, 2017

Mr. John Stuart Bruce  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of North Carolina  
310 New Bern Avenue  
Federal Building, Suite 800  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1461

Re: Investigation referral from the State Board of Elections

Dear John,

Our Investigations team has conducted a lengthy investigation into various allegations of absentee ballot fraud in Bladen County. Our findings to date suggest that individuals and potentially groups of individuals engaged in efforts to manipulate election results through the absentee ballot process. The evidence we have obtained suggest that these efforts may have taken place in the past and if not addressed will likely continue for future elections. Since the 2016 general election ballot included federal elections, the State Board of Elections voted unanimously to refer these matters to your office.

Joan Fleming is our Chief Investigator and has been the primary investigator for these matters in Bladen County. She is happy to provide you the contents of her case files and any other information you desire. If you would like to discuss this matter, I will make myself available to you.

Best regards,

Kim Strach